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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES IN MID-JUNE 1990

For our clients' information, we will again issue periodic reports on major forest pest conditions in 1990. Our aim is to highlight the more significant problems as they occur and give updates on their development. This report includes information on forest pest conditions, as currently known, in the Maritimes in mid-June 1990.

Corrections to M-X-177 (Forest pest conditions in the Maritimes in 1989). I apologize for the two type-setting errors that resulted in providing incorrect technical information:

page 24, Table 4, Gypsy moth - The two black squares indicating the presence of gypsy moth in Bridgetown, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, should be under 1988 and 1989 (rather than 1987 and 1988). Thus, gypsy moth was first found in Bridgetown in 1988 and found again in 1989.

page 51, Table 14, New Brunswick plantation survey summary - The total number of plantations examined in Region 5 should read: Total (105), DNR (7), Fras (64), JDI (34), the rest of the line all zeros. The '0' inadvertently placed under Fras caused the shift to the right.

Weather was again a major factor influencing development of both vegetation and forest pests. It was wet, precipitation being well above normal. At some places, precipitation was double or even triple the norm (Buctouche, N.B) for May. In Nova Scotia, precipitation totals for April-May were in excess of 375 mm, which is close to 300 mm more rain than fell last year (that's almost a foot of water!). And it was cool, degree days were lower than normal throughout and much below last year's figures at the end of May. The weather started to "catch up" to normal during the first week of June, but was still lagging much behind 1989's heat accumulation.

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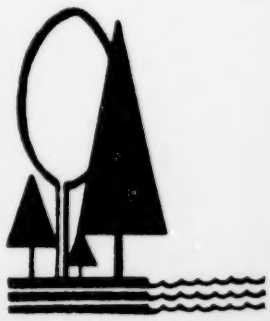

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Winter drying of conifers is widespread and, in many areas, severe. Pines, particularly Scots pine, are especially affected. Cold temperatures, coupled with an early January thaw and compounded by many days of strong winds, contributed to the worse than normal foliage discoloration. In some areas, the combination of these factors resulted in buds being killed, the most serious form of winter injury.

Gypsy moth larvae were observed in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia before the end of May. No other information is available.

Larch casebearer populations are higher than last year throughout the Maritimes, causing considerable foliage loss and discoloration. Overall, the level of discoloration is variable, with severe or moderate discoloration occurring more frequently and affecting larger areas, especially in southeastern New Brunswick.

Scleroderris canker appears to be widespread in pine plantations in the western half of New Brunswick. No assessments are yet available.

Oak leaf roller caused severe or moderate defoliation in scattered pockets in Annapolis, Queens, and Lunenburg counties in Nova Scotia. The full extent of this year's damage is still to be expressed but it appears similar to last year's levels.

Eastern tent caterpillar tents, mostly, but not exclusively, on roadside cherry and apple trees, are more common and more widespread than last year. The most noticeable extension occurred in New Brunswick. Tents are present as far north as the Florenceville-Newcastle line, further north than in previous years. Insect populations also increased in western Nova Scotia.

Rhabdocline needle cast of Douglas fir was found in plantations in all three provinces, causing considerable foliage discoloration.

Other insects and diseases are active but most are in the early stages of development and visible damage to date is minimal.

June 18, 1990

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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